

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 99
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor Watauga Masonic Lodge #622 upon the celebration of its 100th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those organizations that have reached a milestone in their illustrious history; and

WHEREAS, the Watauga Masonic Lodge of Carter County received a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of the State of Tennessee in 1903; and

WHEREAS, they held their first meeting on February 21, 1903, officers were elected with J.W. Wallace selected as the first Worshipful Master; by the end of 1903, there were twenty-five charter members of Watauga Lodge; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 1904, Watauga Lodge received its official Charter from the Grand Lodge of the State of Tennessee and meeting times were officially set to the first and third Wednesday of each month; and

WHEREAS, Watauga Lodge met in the second story of the school building built and owned by the Watauga Lodge and Odd Fellow Lodge until 1935 when the original property site was deeded to the county to build a new school; and

SJR0099

00371536

WHEREAS, from 1935 until 1966, Watauga Lodge #622 met opposite the beautiful new school building; in 1966, the Lodge purchased a lot across from Range Elementary School, built a new Masonic Temple, and held its first meeting there on January 5, 1967, dedicating the new Temple on June 15, 1968; and

WHEREAS, currently, Watauga Masonic Lodge #622 has 248 members, of which there are sixteen fifty-year members and thirty-five living Past Masters; and

WHEREAS, on December 31, 1999, Watauga Lodge was a participant with other Masonic lodges of Carter County in conferring the last Master Mason Degree (3rd Degree) anywhere, by concluding such confirmation at 11:59 p.m. and also conferring the first Entered Apprentice Degree (1st Degree) in the new Millennium by beginning at 12:01 a.m., January 1, 2000; and

WHEREAS, since its founding, the Watauga Masonic Lodge #622 has been known for its contributions to the community evidenced by their aid to needy families, remembering the widows of lodge members throughout the year, but especially at Christmas, and sponsoring a girl's T-Ball team each year in the Carter County Boys and Girls League; and

WHEREAS, the membership of Watauga Masonic Lodge #622 takes great pride in being an integral part of the community, and represents a wide spectrum of the citizens of Carter County; and

WHEREAS, current officers are: Dan Tucker, the Worshipful Master; Jimmy K. Shelton, Jr., Senior Warden; T. Dean Grindstaff, Junior Warden; Lewis Hampton, Senior Deacon; William G. Skeans, Junior Deacon; Allen Jarrett, Senior Steward; Joe Mottern, the Junior Steward; Earl Case, Tiler; Dave Baker, Jr., Treasurer; John E. M. Skeans, Secretary; and Sam Worley, Chaplain; and

WHEREAS, it is for the noble efforts of the Watauga Masonic Lodge #622 of Carter County for the last 100 years that this legislative body is most thankful; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby congratulate the members and officers of Watauga Masonic Lodge #622 for one hundred years of meritorious service to their community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.